

activities and I was very impressed with the desire to move forward in the dry bean field in trying to find ways to market and diversify and I think although, of course, western Nebraska and the Panhandle is the primary source of dry bean production, their growth and strengthening of this area would be of benefit to the whole state. So we're very encouraged by Senator Weihing and Senator Baack's bill and I think all the state would benefit from its passage, so I would rise in support of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, just very briefly I, as I indicated in my opening on the committee amendments, the hearing held on this particular proposal was probably one of the better hearings we had in the Ag Committee, a very educational process for a number of us who are unfamiliar with the industry and I think went through a very good process of understanding the industry and the needs of the industry and the potential market for the industry in the state as well as in the nation. And so I think the checkoff like any checkoff is going to be a bit controversial at first, but the services that will be rendered, the goals that have been set out by the folks that have been working on this proposal I think can be met with some assistance through the checkoff in promoting the product and I think that is the important thing that we need at this point, and, as I said, there was some very good testimony from a lot of folks who drove a long ways from western Nebraska to express their interest in this proposal and I think it's one of the finer bills that Senator Weihing has brought to us at this time and I urge the body to advance the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the advancement of the bill? If not, Senator Weihing, would you care to close?

SENATOR WEIHING: I move that we advance LB 145 to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the motion to advance the bill. Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. On the motion to advance, have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance 145.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The bill is advanced. The A bill, Mr. Clerk.